Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Project Profile MONTANA

Updated: March 22, 2001

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program				
Focus Areas	•	Epidemiology and Surveillance - Core		
Funded		Health Alert Network		

Montana has strengthened its capacity to respond to threats of bioterrorism by:

- Health Alert Network
 Establishing an alliance with Idaho, North Dakota, and South Dakota to conduct regional disease surveillance and enhance epidemiologic capacity
- Designating a full-time surveillance coordinator to conduct field investigations, follow-up and report incidents to the State Epidemiologist and Health Officer
- Developing a core epidemiologic and surveillance response plan with specific information about individual agents
- Working with one of the largest hospitals in the State to develop a basic hospital response plan
- Incorporating animal health issues and partners into bioterrorism surveillance efforts
- Conducting bioterrorism training programs for lab professionals, EMS providers, county officials, law enforcement, sanitarians, and other public health professionals
- Conducting an assessment of information/communications capacity in 56 local health jurisdictions
- Assessing local workforce training needs
- Developing and conducting a table-top exercise
- Updating communications and training capacity at the local level via technical assistance site visits and new hardware/software
- Developing and testing internal and external protocols for coordination of State and local pubic health service providers during a response effort

Project Year 2 Plans (August 31, 2000-August 30, 2001) include:

- Increasing collaboration among public health, medical and veterinary partners
- Providing animal disease training for state veterinarians
- Developing and conducting a comprehensive BT training program for staff in the 4-state consortium
- Increasing Internet access, broadcast fax and e-mail capability in local health jurisdictions
- Establishing distance learning classrooms throughout the state

Contact Information

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Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance

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Anecdotes				

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